

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

exists, and the pound is not convertible into dollars merely because in the dollar areas of the world our population density is not high and our per capita production for labour expended is higher. I simply point out these impediments and difficulties. I am not intending to say that it is an easy problem to solve. It is a problem that will require real energy and foresight and imagination.

I thought perhaps a suggestion of this kind might have some merit. If the United Kingdom were to undertake to supply one million immigrants to this country over a period of years, we as the country receiving them should recognize some responsibility. We must remember that for the most part they would be young, productive people. We should realize that the country which produced those people would have used up certain potential resources in order to give them to us. We should also recognize that for every million people who migrate from the United Kingdom an extra debt of £514 million is placed on the shoulders of those who remain behind.

I think some system could be worked out whereby we as the country receiving these people might assume a fraction of their per capita debt in the country they were leaving. A fund of credits could be set up for that country. That may seem ridiculous to some people, but we have made loans to sterling area countries to permit them to purchase food, machinery and so on in the dollar areas. That was done without any logical or businesslike basis. I think perhaps a relationship between immigration and these loans or grants could be arrived at so that the United Kingdom, for example, would have a dollar buying power to permit them to purchase food, wheat, cheese and many other commodities of which we have an oversupply and for which they could provide great markets.

I throw that out merely as a suggestion or a point from which some thinking could be done. I do not propose it as a policy of my own or of any party or group or anything of that sort. I use it as an illustration to substantiate my belief that this is a problem which requires really advanced thinking. We must face up to it. If we do not the consequences are going to be most unfortunate.

I think the accent should be placed on bringing industries to this country, or even transplanting whole towns along with the skilled labour concerned. Those could be taken from overpopulated areas and relocated in the vast empty spaces of this country where the required raw materials might be readily available. That would get us away

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]

from the present system under which we try to bring in agricultural labour or those who will settle on the land. We must remember that that is a difficult thing to do. To begin with, the days when a family could push off into the wilderness and carve themselves a new home with no other capital than a couple of oxen and a few primitive agricultural tools are gone for ever. It takes a great deal of capital to establish yourself in agriculture at the present time.

You are trying to do the impossible when you try to force people into agriculture against their will. The reason it is difficult to keep immigrants on the land is that farmers cannot pay them wages comparable to those paid in the cities. There is no equal opportunity in agriculture. The opportunities in agriculture for those already on the land and their families would be greatly enhanced if home markets were built up by the creation of new towns in sparsely settled areas.

It may seem rather unusual to refer to new towns, but even in the United Kingdom they recognize that it is not a good thing to have your population crowded into a few large cities. That is even truer of this country. We should try to organize our economy so that our increasing population will find homes for themselves in new locations spread more evenly across the whole breadth of our great country.

At the present time the population of a few large cities is increasing at a very rapid rate. This creates many problems in the way of traffic congestion, the creation of slums and the vital problem of creating the most attractive atomic bomb targets that could exist on the face of the earth. These are things we should try to avoid. Therefore I think something should be done to have our immigration funnelled into new locations where it could be leavened by native-born Canadians to bring about a uniformity in culture and way of life.

I have already quoted from a book called "The Next British Empire". This was written before the last war by a forward-thinking Englishman who had foreseen most of the difficulties with which we are now faced. He suggests a cure for those difficulties, and in one place he says:

Up to the present our dominions have shown an understandable but somewhat exaggerated fear of having their standard of living lowered by any large influx of cheap labour. But why cheap? Simple because, if the labour arrives before the jobs, wages will naturally fall. But if the courage of manufacturers first creates a demand for workers, as it has to the west of London, all the subsequent march of labour to that point does not upset the market and create depression. London, in spite of having absorbed over 1,000,000 provincial newcomers since 1921, has a lower percentage of unemployment than any other manufacturing